

# Tall Tower Topics

Good Evening.  
BY THE MAN IN THE TOWER

LET'S RESOLVE

For New Year resolutions let us all try  
To check up on the following, do or die.  
To omit from vocabularies come what may,  
Bye-bye, all right, and also okay.  
Not to whack our friends on the back  
Or to trifle with a practical joking tack.  
Not with "say listen", our sentences begin  
Or to become playful with the out-dated pin.  
To believe our friend who says, "no liquor, thanks",  
To leave to the children ye olde parlor pranks.  
Not to rattle a newspaper when the radio's going,  
Or to come home late when the wife is throwing.  
To swear off trite phrases such as "was my face red"?  
Or to say to the little wife "these biscuits are like lead."  
Not to refer to your home as "just a little shanty",  
Or to forget the birthday of your very favorite aunty.  
To refrain from calling husband when he slips up on  
a double.  
Or to kick him under the table—that always ends  
in trouble.  
Not to spring the moth-eaten, "well, as long as you're  
healthy",  
Or to spring the chestnut, "rather be good-looking than  
wealthy".  
Not to start talking till the other fellows through,  
Or to bore all your friends about your kids' I.Q.  
In a word, so help us, let's watch our step this year,  
Keep sober, don't hoard gold, and you'll have naught  
to fear.

—Em Em.

Rev. Lawrence W. Doucette, native of the South End, who has been stationed at St. Anthony's church in Bridgeport the past few years, will soon begin his duties as a volunteer on the staff of the New Haven Community Chest and Council of Social Agencies, for the purpose of making a series of studies in community social work organization in the Elm City. For many months Father Doucette has been majoring at the New York School of Social Work and his job in New Haven will be for a double purpose. He intends to complete a field of work requirement of the school and simultaneously assist in attacking a number of problems now facing the Chest. He will relate himself to a number of surveys in various phases of community social work organization, his research being the basis for possible future re-shifting of agency functions, re-defining of social work methods and re-allocation of services.

Joe Quinn, a Fourth Estater in the making, dropped in to pay his respects yesterday afternoon before boarding a rattler tomorrow for the University of Kentucky where he is a junior. Joe contemplates stopping off in New York City tomorrow night to watch the Kentucky Colonels basketball game at Madison Square Garden and confidentially tells me to pop a few hard-earned 'kunnels' on his cohorts. During the summer Joe worked on the sports department of the Cincinnati Post, editing the amateur sports page. He likes journalism immensely and is high in his praise of his university professors, all of whom are former newspapermen.

Hits and bits. . . Marjorie Oviatt was recipient of a beautiful gift and the well wishes of Claire beauticians Saturday evening as she severed connections with the firm to join the staff of Howland-Hughes. She assumed her new capacity yesterday morning. . . Anthony Graziosa, pride and joy of the South End, will slip a ring on the beautiful finger of Mary Lentini Thursday morning at St. Lucy's church. Theirs was a budding romance and I wish them a pleasant voyage on their matrimonial cruise. . . Mary Phelan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Phelan, of 11 South Street, forwards another box of tinfoil. She's one of the Tower's most consistent donors and one of its most welcome visitors. . . Felix Guarini, diminutive funmaker, has been dropped for a count by Kid Pneumonia. Laugh it off Felix, the boys miss you. . . Mrs. Lena Sirica and daughter Evelyn excursioned to Washington, D. C., Sunday where they hope to catch Congress in action before boarding a return choo-choo next Saturday.

If it may be classified with old razor blades, the latest method of getting rid of 1928 lizzie models has been discovered by George Dveliskis of Fox Street, New Year's Day George and his dad drove to Candlewood Lake, Danbury, for an afternoon with the rod and reel. The lake was covered with ice, so the car was driven far out where the fish were alleged biting best. They went to work, but not for long. The ice cracked and soon the boys were casting their cold orbs among shiners they believed would later be their bait, but which proved their downfall. George and his dad decided to do something about saving the family crate, but when informed that the water was 60 feet deep or more they unanimously decided that old lizzie could rest in peace.

Chatter. . . Mr. and Mrs. Wayne LeGrand, recent honeymooners, will be tendered a testimonial banquet by admirers at Waverly Inn Saturday night. The missus is the former Mary M. Coakley. . . John A. Cluney, Dem sports ed, has been invited by Rev. William Botticelli of St. Peter's church in Torrington to be the principal speaker at the Holy Name Society's annual communion breakfast next Sunday. . . Miss Kathleen Crowley sends along a lovely New Year's card to extend good wishes for 1936 to the boys of our editorial room. Miss Crowley never forgets us and we deeply appreciate her thoughtfulness. . . Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Kellogg took in the Bachelor's Ball in the Delta Kappa Epsilon Hall in New Haven Saturday evening. . . Charley Teller, rated the best setback player in the East End, was taken over the hurdles the other day by "Red" Parker whom he regarded as a novice. It was the first time Charley was wrong in years.

Sleigh-bells ring. . . Every time we get a bit of snow memory harkens back to the days of double-runners, sleighs and sleigh-rides, etc. . . Remember the first sleigh-ride you went on. It was fun until the cold got into your bones. Then it was real misery. . . And how your toes and fingers would ache when you got into a warm spot and tried to thaw out comfortably. . . You didn't have to go a mile from Exchange Place in those days to get into the sleigh, like they do to-day. It would pick you up at your house if you lived along the route. . . And the first time you drove a cutter with a spanking bay occasionally casting a bit of hard snow up in your face over the curved dashboard. . . How you'd rattle the whip in its socket to make the mare step along at a faster gait with the wind whistling by your face and coloring it a beef red. . . Those were the days, my boy, those were the days. . .

Good Night.

# "Swing" Music (WHAT IS IT?) Goes 'Round And Around Nation

"NEW" TYPE OF JAZZ TAKES REVUES, CABARETS, BALL ROOMS AND RADIO BY STORM—BUT MUSICIANS CAN'T DEFINE IT

BY MARIAN YOUNG AND WALTER C. PARKES  
NEA Service Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—All America and a great portion of what is laughingly known as the civilized world are swinging it.

Symbolized by the feverish spread of a daffy song-hit called "The Music Goes 'Round and Around," swing rhythms—the great What-Is-It of the melody world—have caught up radio musicians, night club bands, movie revues, Broadway shows, ballroom dancers, makers of phonograph records and publishers of sheet music in a mad musical whirl.

"To swing or not to swing?" is a question furrowing the usually unruffled brows of orchestra leaders from coast to coast. And meanwhile, people who worry about such things are trying, with conspicuously small success, to define swing and put it in a musical pigeon-hole.

Swing is praised by one school of music lovers as "the ultimate in improvisation, perfect rhythmic assurance, the acme in musical technique and an indelible notation on the evolution of jazz." It is condemned by others with such epithets as "lewdness in music," "mere old-fashioned jazz with a fast tempo," "music of the most illiterate type," and "ugly but exciting dis-harmonies."

The only approach to a common definition seems to be that most critics agree that swing is the original melody embellished with fancy "fixes" in the way of spontaneous variations and ad libbed trills, runs, screeches and squawks. Even the lyrics are not safe, for many noted swing-



Petite Dixie Dunbar puts swing into the movie, "The King of Burlesque."

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Listen to any dance band for ten minutes, at the most, and you'll hear the crazy swing song concocted by Mike Riley (left) and Ed Farley (right), musicians in a New York night club. It's "The Music That Goes 'Round and Around," and there hasn't been a music hit comparable to it since "Yes, We Have No Bananas" (remember?). "Red" Hodgson wrote the words.

song of the swing era, has got Tin Pan Alley standing on its collective head. All records are broken with 100,000 copies sold within a month, and no let-up in sight. Ed Farley and Mike Riley, who with "Red" Hodgson of Chicago spawned the rotating rhythm, are cleaning up. Chanted continuously by vocalists, banged out by radio bands, and substituted by Sister Susie for her favorite torch ballad, the manic melody is in danger of being done to death. So the panic-stricken publishers are doing the unheard of thing of discouraging performers from using the number. Instead of the customary plugging, no professional free copies are being handed out, while Tin Pan Alley stands agast at the phenomenon.

The dignity of the dance is in danger, too, according to Arthur Murray famous dance master. "Music controls the dance," he said. "The fact that swing music is unbridled and spontaneous means that ballroom dancing may become equally abandoned."

West 52nd street is the focal spot of swing in New York. Here swing clubs are breaking out like measles in a crowded schoolroom. There is no dancing in them. Swing lovers simply sit and listen, in silent, swaying worship of the rowdy swinging rhythms. "The Music Goes 'Round and Around' becomes a haywire hymn, and other swing tunes, such as "Broken Record," contribute to the coma of the addicts.

Men as well as songs have come to recent fame through swing. John Hammond, president of the Hot Clubs of America, says Fletcher Henderson was the greatest swing artist of all time, while others disagree and rhapsodize over the late Bix Beiderbecke. Paul Whiteman's trumpet, but Mr. Hammond hears no denials when he names Benny Goodman, of the Hotel Congress, Chicago, as the hottest living swing player in the country. Incidentally, the Hot Clubs of America are composed of "enthusiastic admirers and amateur players of hot music."

Mr. Hammond has very definite ideas on what constitutes real swing. He says swing must be spontaneous and insists that it cannot be rehearsed. In his opinion a swing band should number not more than seven, and they must be expert musicians who can keep the original melodies in mind and improvise on them. No large commercial band using sophisticated orchestration can swing, he says. And further, it is impossible for a single swinger to "ride" a tune unless the whole orchestra is doing it. Even then the result may be short of perfection because the audience isn't sympathetic to what's happening. Which bears out the contention that swing is more mood than music.

Paul Whiteman, on the other hand, would have you know that jazz is jazz whether you call it swing or sway. He states emphatically that swing is simply any music played in jazz rhythm. Though noted as the originator of "sweet" jazz,

Whiteman has several numbers on each program played according to his definition of "swing."

The King of Jazz agrees with Hammond that "Made in America" is the proper label for swing, although it had enthusiastic friends in Europe long before it took hold here. So mysterious is everything connected with swing that experts even disagree as to its age. Some say French and English Hot Clubs have been listening to American swing records since 1920. But this age of sweet sixteen is de-

## CITY DICKERING FOR P.T.A. PARLEY

Delegates from the Waterbury Council of Parents and Teachers will be instructed to ask that the next congress be held in this city, according to an announcement made at a meeting last night. This year's gathering will be held in April at Hartford. A nominating committee elected last night to suggest a slate of officers for the April elections includes: Miss Esther Fox, Mrs. Robert Croft of Middlebury and Mrs. Eva Greene. Mrs. Elmer Wilson presided at the meeting.



June and Cherry Preiser, swinging in the new Ziegfeld Follies.

nied by Mr. Hammond, who says that the French yen for "le Jazz Hot" dates from 1922 and that English clubs started only recently. The honor of being the American leader of swing has many claimants, but so far, critical opinion has failed to place the laurels (or thorns) on the brow of any individual.

But with everybody going around and around to the dizzy rhythms, it seems that the song writer was a prophet who said "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing."

Tomorrow: The War Raging Over Swing Tunes in the Music World.

## Daily Statistics On Auto Accidents

	1935	1936
*Accidents .....	222	27
*Fatalities .....	8	11
*Injuries .....	160	11
KILLED		
Pedestrians .....	6	3
Occupants .....	2	7
Bicyclists .....	—	1
Children .....	—	1
Adults .....	8	10
INJURED		
Pedestrians .....	36	4
Occupants .....	122	6
Bicyclists .....	2	1
Children .....	10	1
Adults .....	142	8
Age not stated .....	8	2

\*1936 totals of accidents, injuries and fatalities are subject to change because of incomplete or tardy traffic accident reports and because of injured occupants and pedestrians not being definitely resolved as "recoveries" or "fatalities."

England's National League of Airmen is growing rapidly, and members are being trained to fly, and helped to get a government flying permit for \$70.

## WORKERS UNIONS IN WPA BLOCKED

Efforts to organize unions in the WPA will be generally frowned upon by administration officials. Although no official action has been taken by state authorities, an attempt to promote such a union yesterday in Hartford was blocked by supervisors of the Hartford projects, who informed workers that it was not the intent of the government to pay employees for time spent in participating in union movements. Thomas E. Walsh, Hartford placement officer, issued instructions to timekeepers to dock a worker's time card if the man held extended conversations with visitors.

## BEGNAL JOB TO BE WPA PROJECT

Begnal school will be repaired at a cost of \$5,589 under a project approved by the WPA. Twenty-two persons will be employed. The new WPA project will begin today when members of the cast of the first production "Men Must Fight," report at the Lincoln theater.

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## Answers To Test Questions

- Below are the answers to test questions printed on page 6.
2. Paris, France.
  3. The whole mass of ocean waters on the earth's surface.
  4. Males do not bite, and only the female has a proboscis suitable for blood sucking.
  5. The Dardanells.
  6. West coast.
  7. A period of four years.
  8. "Love Passes By."
  9. Henry M. Hyndman.
  10. Mohawk.